



Iraqi Council of Ministers Presented to the Parliament by Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki

1. Dr. Barham Salih, Deputy Prime Minister
2. Salam al-Zawba'i, Deputy Prime Minister
3. Nuri al-Maliki, Acting Minister of the Interior
4. Salam al-Zawba'i, Acting Minister of Defense
5. Dr. Husayn al-Shahrastani, Minister of Oil
6. Baqir Jabr al-Zubaydi (a.k.a. Bayan Jabr), Minister of Finance
7. Hoshayr Zebari, Minister of Foreign Affairs
8. Hashim al-Shibli, Minister of Justice
9. Ali Baban, Minister of Planning
10. Karim Wahid, Minister of Electricity
11. Dr. Ali al-Shammari, Minister of Health
12. Dr. Khudayyir al-Khuza'i Minister of Education
13. Dr. Abd Dhiyab al-Ajili, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research
14. Dr. Abd-al-Falah al-Sudani, Minister of Trade

15. Fawzi al-Hariri, Minister of Industry
 16. Dr. Karim Mahdi Salih, Minister of Transportation
 17. Muhammad Tawfiq Allawi, Minister of Communications
 18. Mrs. Bayan Daza'i, Minister of Housing and Construction
 19. Riyadh Ghurayyib, Minister of Municipalities and Public Works
 20. Dr. Latif Rashid, Minister of Water Resources
 21. Mahmud Muhammad Jawad Al Radi, Minister of Labor and Social Affairs
 22. Dr. Ra'id Fahmi Jahid, Minister of Science and Technology
 23. Mrs. Narmin Uthman, Minister of Environment
 24. Jasim Muhammad Ja'far, Minister of Youth and Sports
 25. As'ad Kamal Muhammad Abdallah al-Hashimi, Minister of Culture
 26. Mrs. Wijdan Mikha'il, Minister of Human Rights
 27. Dr. Abd-al-Samad Rahman Sultan, Minister of Immigration and Displaced Persons
 28. Dr. Liwa Sumaysim, Minister of State for Tourism and Antiquities
 29. Dr. Barham Salih, Acting Minister of National Security Affairs
 30. Adil al-Asadi, Minister of Civil Society Affairs
 31. Dr. Rafi Hiyad al-Isawi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs
 32. Dr. Safa al-Safi, Minister of State for the Council of Representatives Affairs
 33. Dr. Sa'd Tahir Abd Khalaf al-Hashimi, Minister of State for Governorate Affairs
 34. Mrs. Fatin Abd-al-Rahman Mahmoud, Minister of State for Women's Affairs
 35. Dr. Akram al-Hakim, Minister of State for the National Dialogue Affairs
 36. Muhammad Abbas al-Uraybi, Minister of State
 37. Ali Muhammad Ahmad, Minister of State
 38. Hassan Radi Kazimal-Sari, Minister of State
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Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's Policy Statement to the Council of Representatives

May 20, 2006

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. The principles and bases included in the program that was presented to the esteemed Council of Representatives.

It should be the program that we presented in its general outlines in light of what was agreed upon among the political blocs, which held numerous meetings before agreeing on this political program and all the mechanisms for forming the government, and not, as some claim, that this took place outside the circle of political accord.

Praised be God, and may the peace and blessings of God be upon our master Muhammad, and his good and chaste family members and great companions. Ladies and gentlemen: Honorable members of the Council of Ministers. May the peace and blessings of God be upon you.

I have the honor in my name and on behalf of my brothers and sisters in the cabinet to present to your esteemed council the government program, which will constitute the

general outlines of our government's work and on the basis of which I hope to achieve your precious confidence. You represent the confidence of our great people, who have elected this council in the greatest of circumstances and most honorable elections known to Iraq throughout its long history.

I promise the esteemed council to present the detailed government program within one month so that the Council of Representatives will discuss it and correct it in the manner it deems suitable and so that the ladies and gentlemen among the ministers will present their visions and plans, each in his/her own specific field.

Brothers and sisters: The honor of heading the first Iraqi cabinet to be established on a permanent constitution and general elections places on me and my colleagues, the ministers, exceptional responsibilities. I pray to God Almighty to guide us and give us the power, determination, wisdom, and vision to assume them so as to achieve the aspirations and hopes of our oppressed people, who have suffered long from different woes, tragedies, and wars, and unfair policies. I raise my hands to the Almighty God and pray: O God, show me what is right so that I can follow it and show me falsehood so that I can avoid it.

I also call upon our great people and your esteemed council to give me the support and assistance. Perhaps their best is control, advice, criticism, and guidance.

Before presenting the main points of the program and the principles, I would like to extend my profound thanks and high appreciation to the supreme religious authority in Al-Najaf headed by Grand Ayatollah Al-Sayyid al-Sistani, my God extend his shadow, and the other great religious authorities, as well as the other Muslim and non-Muslim religious authorities and scholars, political leaders, patriots, and the different Iraqi institutions for their efforts and role in pushing the political process forward and ensuring the right atmosphere in these difficult circumstances for holding the elections and the referendum on the constitution.

I also thank all friendly institutions and states for their contributions and efforts in supporting Iraq and its people. I express my special appreciation for the officials who preceded me in assuming this difficult and complex task. I mention in particular the interim and transitional governments, which led Iraq in the most difficult and complex circumstances. I also greatly appreciate the services of the brothers who preceded me: Dr Iyad Allawi and Dr Ibrahim al-Ja'fari. I will continue my earnest endeavors to consolidate the achievements that were made in their administrations, fill in the missing parts, and continue the work to accomplish the required tasks.

I stand solemnly before the souls of our martyrs and the precious blood offered by Iraqis and seek inspiration from our people's steadfastness, sacrifices, pains, the imprisonment, torture, killing, and terrorism they faced, as well as the deportation, prosecution, and harassment. I firmly believe that our power and victory are from the power and victory of this great people after God Almighty.

Just as we did away with the tyrant and the days of oppression and despotism, we will do away with terrorism and sabotage and the factors of backwardness, poverty, and ignorance. We will transform the Samarra tragedy and the bombing of the two Askari imams, peace be upon them, and the daily acts of sabotage and murder that followed and the continuous tragedies that led to unlimited numbers of victims, who fall daily as a result of the kidnapping, torture, deportation, killing, and persecution into a solid determination and invincible iron will to unify the ranks of our people and isolate whoever wishes them ill-will, harm, sedition, and aggression.

Ladies and gentlemen, honorable members of the Council of Representatives: The government places its program in the framework that preserves the unity of the Iraqi people with all their communities and nationalities in order to build a constitutional, democratic, federal, and pluralistic Iraq that adopts the constitution and the laws that guarantee rights and freedoms for all members of the Iraqi people, ensure an effective contribution by the woman, and strengthen the role of civil society institutions, develop them, and strengthen their independence.

1. The program adopts the formation of a national unity government on the basis of the principle of participation and the representation of the Iraqi components on the basis of the election results and the demands of the national interests.
2. Acting upon and abiding by the constitution. Any subsequent amendments will take place in accordance with Article 142 of the constitution.
3. Proceeding with the policy of national dialogue and expanding the circle of participation in the political process in a way that harmonizes with the constitution and builds a free, pluralistic, federal, and democratic Iraq with the spirit of reconciliation and frankness.
4. Repudiating violence and condemning the takfiri [accusing others of infidelity] line in a clear and frank manner and terrorism in all its forms, and rallying in combating it and implementing the laws on combating terrorism in an effective manner through the judicial institutions and the other pertinent state institutions and creating all the right circumstances for entrenching the spirit of love and tolerance among the people of the homeland, while respecting the international criteria on human rights.
5. Working for the preservation of Iraq's sovereignty, strengthening its independence and unity, and dealing with the subject of the presence of the multinational forces within the context of UN Security Council Resolution 1546 and expediting the plans for completing the Iraqi forces according to the constitution on the basis of professionalism and national loyalty, and also expediting the transfer of responsibility and security powers to the Iraqi army, police, and security forces and asserting the principle of cooperation between Iraq and the multinational forces in a manner that achieves the fulfillment of all the requirements in accordance with an objective timetable for the Iraqi forces' assumption of their full security duties and the end of the tasks of the multinational forces and their return to their countries.

6. Entrenching the state of institutions, building the state of law and following the administrative and institutional procedures in accordance with the principle of citizenship, rejecting unilateralism and improvised decisions, and considering the ministries and state departments a national identity and the property of the people and not the identity of the minister's party and personal decisions. Banning any monopoly, domination, or trusteeship by any faction or group over government and administrative formations or public establishments.

7. Banning totalitarianism, dictatorship, sectarianism, and racism in all their forms and embodying this ban in state policies and practices.

8. The woman is half of the society and the raiser of the other half. Therefore, she must assume her effective role in building the society and the state. Her rights must be respected in the different fields.

9. The youths are the hope of the future. Therefore, it is essential to create a good and suitable environment for developing their energies and capabilities so as to strengthen the building of Iraq and the national values.

10. Caring for and developing the holy shrines and giving full support for preserving their security and the security of their visitors and developing religious tourism.

11. Caring for universities and backing their independence and revising the curricular at all stages to make them compatible with scientific developments and rid them of all chauvinistic and communal mentality to encourage national unity.

12. Guaranteeing the independence of the Iraqi Media Network and the National Telecommunication Corporation and preventing government interference in their affairs and abiding by the laws organizing their work.

13. Laying down a comprehensive development plan for reconstruction and development, while taking into consideration the state of deprivation, injustice, and backwardness, which has affected certain areas and populations due to the policies and despotism of the defunct regime.

14. Revitalizing the reconstruction process and giving priority to deprived and affected areas.

15. Expediting the rehabilitation of the electricity sector.

16. Reorganizing the hydrocarbon (Oil and Gas) sector by issuing a law for this purpose to ensure the rights of the regions and governorates upon their formation, as stipulated in the constitution.

17. Encouraging investment and attracting national and foreign capital to help with the development and the reconstruction process and preserve national unity.
18. Paying extreme attention to the agricultural and industrial sectors and laying down the laws and decisions and giving adequate government support for their development.
19. The government is a unified whole that expresses Iraq and the Iraqi people, who have chosen it through the free election mechanism. A relationship shall be organized between the federal government and the governments and councils of the regions and governorate to promote the principle of federalism and decentralization in building the state and developing the federal relationship among its components in Iraq.
20. Building the relationship of friendship and mutual respect and cooperation with the neighboring states and the world to achieve the common interests between Iraq and those states, and non-interference in the internal affairs, and the adoption of dialogue and negotiation a method for settling outstanding issues.
21. Strengthening the basic role of the regions and governorate councils when formed and organizing free and fair elections for the governorate councils and adopting their results in running those governorates and regimes and organizing the central government's relationship with them according to the constitution and the regulating laws.
22. The government pledges to implement Article 140 of the constitution, which is based on Article 58 of the State Administration Law, which specifies three stages: Normalization, census, and referendum in Kirkuk and other disputed areas. Once formed, the government will take the necessary steps to carry out the normalization measures, including the return of the districts and sub-districts that originally belonged to Kirkuk. This phase will end on 29 March 2007, when the census phase will begin on 31 July 2007. The final phase, which is the referendum, will take place on 15 November 2007.
[Applause]
23. The government pledges to tackle the security file by undertaking a comprehensive plan with scientific, economic, political, social, and other fields. It will be followed with the same measure of attention.
24. The adoption of the principle of balance and competence in running the country and the distribution of responsibilities and the employment in government departments, the army, and Police, as well as the security services and the embassies to achieve justice in participation and improve professional performance.
25. Setting up efficient mechanisms for controlling expenditure, tackling administrative and financial corruption, and activating the relevant constitutional articles, and pledging to abide by them.
26. Developing a plan for social equality and justice to tackle poverty and backwardness.

27. Developing higher education and scientific research institutions to serve the building of new Iraq and harmonize with the needs of progress and reconstruction.

28. Revising the structures and laws of independent corporations and backing them, including the higher national Deba'athification Committee and Integrity Committee, in a manner that does not conflict with the constitution and its amendments.

29. Reconsidering the Election Law and the formation of the Higher Electoral Commission.

30. Controlling the international borders and their exits and activating the relevant constitutional articles.

31. Stopping compulsory displacement operations from all parts of the country and returning replaced people to their original places of residence.

32. Sponsoring scientific talents and providing suitable security and living conditions to prevent their emigration and adopting effective measures for the return of talents to the homeland.

33. The formation of a government committee immediately upon the formation of the cabinet whose task will be to follow up on the cases of the detainees and the immediate release of the innocent ones, and the enforcement of justice by referring the defendants to the courts and the immediate release of citizens who have not been detained legally.

May the peace and blessings of God be upon you.

Statement By President Bush On The Formation Of Iraq's New Unity Government

May 20, 2006

THE PRESIDENT: "I congratulate Prime Minister Maliki on the formation of Iraq's new unity government. Iraqis now have a fully constitutional government, marking the end of a democratic transitional process in Iraq that has been both difficult and inspiring. This broadly representative unity government offers a new opportunity for progress in Iraq.



"The new government reflects Iraq's diversity and opens a new chapter in that country's history. Iraq's new leaders know the period ahead will be filled with great challenge. But they also know that they – and their great country – will not face them alone. The United States and freedom-loving nations around the world will stand with Iraq as it takes its place among the world's democracies and as an ally in the War on Terror.

"Today, as Iraqis look to their new government, they can be proud that in three years they have progressed from the oppression of a brutal dictator who fomented sectarian divides to an elected government in which all Iraqis have a voice. As Iraq's leaders work together to chart the future of their nation, bringing freedom and security to the Iraqi people, they make the world a safer place for all of us. The sacrifices of many of our country's noblest and bravest have helped make this day possible. We will not forget their contribution to our security and Iraq's democracy."

Remarks By President Bush On The Formation Of A New Government In Iraq

May 21, 2006

The formation of a unity government in Iraq is a new day for the millions of Iraqis who want to live in peace. And the formation of the unity government in Iraq begins a new chapter in our relationship with Iraq.

This morning, I called the President, the Prime Minister and the Speaker to congratulate them on working together to form the unity government. I assured them that the United States will continue to assist the Iraqis in the formation of a free country, because I fully understand that a free Iraq will be an important ally in the war on terror, will serve as a devastating defeat for the terrorists and al Qaeda, and will serve as an example for others in the region who desire to be free.

Thank you.

Statement By U.S. Ambassador To Iraq Zalmay Khalilzad On The Inauguration Of The Permanent Government Of Iraq

May 20, 2006

Today marks a new milestone for Iraq. What happened in the assembly represents the end of Iraq's political transition that began in April 2003 from the American

administration under occupation, to a democratically elected Iraqi government. I congratulate the Iraqi people on the inauguration of their country's first-ever national unity government. Though the appointments of the Ministers of Defense and Interior will come in the next few days, the Iraqi people should take pride in the fact that the cabinet ministers announced today were approved by democratically elected leaders representing all areas of the country and all of Iraq's people. Iraqi leaders worked through their differences and forged compromises to create a permanent government. This process has been without precedent in Iraq's long history.

But Iraqi leaders have done more than form a government. First, they have agreed to power-sharing and confidence-building arrangements that are essential to catalyzing a productive political process capable of bridging divides among Iraqi communities. Second, they have agreed on common policy priorities that the government will focus on. These agreements mark a new chapter for Iraq.

The fact that Iraqi leaders are taking some additional time to name the security ministers shows the seriousness with which they have approached the task. Getting these appointments right is essential to putting Iraq on a path to stability. Iraqi leaders have agreed that the security ministers must be unifiers, not dividers; professionals, not partisans; and free of links to crimes of the past regime and to today's sectarian militias. Moreover, Iraqi leaders have agreed that these choices must be made by consensus. It is important that these criteria are met.

Even with the formation of this unity government, tremendous challenges still lay ahead. Prime Minister Maliki realizes the new government must:

- Forge unity and reconciliation amongst the Iraqi people;
- Provide security for the Iraqi people;
- Deliver basic services, economic prosperity, and rule of law to the Iraqi people; and
- Lead the Iraqi people as they work to strengthen their new democratic institutions.

We recognize that this work will not be easy. But the cabinet ministers inaugurated today will give the new government a strong foundation for progress in Iraq. They must commit to building a better future for all Iraqis, and to put the interest of the people above those of their parties. The United States will work with the new government as it strives to bring security and economic prosperity to Iraq, and as it works to consolidate the democratic society the Iraqi people are building.

The future of Iraq will set the course for the future of the Greater Middle East. The future of this region will determine the future of the world over the next century. I therefore call upon the international community to join us in helping to support the democratically elected government of Iraq in its important work.

Thank you, and may God bless the people of Iraq.
